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A world meeting of mayors focuses on solutions to urban problems

Over 100 mayors from around the world promised to work with international organizations and national governments to start more social development programmes, to improve health and education, and to attack poverty, generate jobs and enhance the status of women and the elderly at an international meeting of mayors at the United Nations on 18 and 19 August. The majority of the mayors said that unemployment was the number one problem they faced, in cities large and small, and in every region.

The colloquium, the largest gathering of mayors ever to be held at UN headquarters, was co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and the Group of 4 Cities Associations. The event helped to advance ideas for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) which is scheduled to take place in Istanbul in 1996, and which will focus on problems caused by the growing urban explosion. Additionally, recommendations emerging from the colloquium will be taken up at next year's World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, which will tackle three major issues that are of special concern to cities: rising unemployment, increasing poverty and worsening social disintegration.

Sid Kane/UNDP

A press conference held during the mayoral colloquium. From right to left: Mayor Jaime Ravinet of Santiago, Chile; Gus Edgren, Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support; Wally N'Dow, the Head of HABITAT and Søren Dyssegaard, Director of UNDP's Division of Public Affairs.

At the meeting, Wally N'Dow, the head of HABITAT and the Secretary-General of the upcoming conference in Istanbul, said that the word crisis has been overused, but that no other word will do to describe the dilemma of our cities. "Not one of us is untouched by the repercussions of unemployment, homelessness, crime, drugs in schools and on the streets, water-borne diseases, AIDS, pollution, gridlocked traffic and crumbling infrastructure," he said. "These affect everyone, in urban as well as in rural areas, and it is urgent that all countries — industrialized and developing alike — cooperate to overcome them."

Speaking on behalf of UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth, acting UNDP Associate Administrator Toshiyuki Niwa told the gathering that in just five or six more years, more than half of humanity will live in cities or towns. "Just three decades ago," Mr. Niwa said, "there were only 19 cities with popula-

In this issue:

A UN conference seeks to better understand and reduce ethnic conflict — Senior-level appointments made at UNDP — Building momentum to carry out Earth Summit Agreements

READEX
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tions of more than four million. In three more decades, there will be 135. So each year during this period we're seeing the birth of two cities the size of Los Angeles, with most of the urban growth taking place in the developing world."

Mr. Niwa went on to say that "we can take the easy way out, admit defeat and watch our cities grow out of control and eventually fall apart. Or, we can take on the more difficult but more rewarding job of doing everything in our power to make sure our cities are livable, safe and productive."

At the meeting's conclusion, a declaration was presented that outlined a host of priorities that the mayors committed themselves to addressing, in partnership with international organizations and national governments. Also announced at the meeting were the results of an international survey of 135 mayors conducted by UNDP just prior to the colloquium, which identified unemployment as the number one problem that cities face. Ranking next in order of severity are inadequate housing, insufficient solid waste management, crime and poverty.

"Mayors are eager to succeed," said Ms. Hortense Aka Anghui, Mayor of Port Bouet, Côte d'Ivoire. "They need not give up due to the scope and size of the problems, and they should know that they are not alone."

UNDP Administrator makes two high-level appointments

UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth announced on 15 August the appointment of Ms. Gun-Britt Andersson as Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of its Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. Ms. Andersson succeeds Mr. Gus Edgren, who is returning to government service in Sweden.

Since 1992, Ms. Andersson has been the Director of Operations in the West Bank for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), where she has had overall management responsibility for providing relief and social services to some 450,000 refugees. Prior to joining UNRWA, Ms. Andersson played a prominent role within the Swedish government in planning and implementing development assistance. She is expected to take up her new post at UNDP in November.

Mr. Speth also announced on 15 August the appointment of Ms. Noeleen Heyzer as Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Since 1984, Ms. Heyzer has been in charge of the Gender and Development Programme in the Asian and Pacific Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where she has played a leading role in preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held next year in Beijing. Additionally, Ms. Heyzer has led efforts to build networks of women's groups, to create credit and development programmes and to establish training and research centres in Asia. She is also a founding member of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), a network of women leaders from the South.

Ms. Heyzer, who succeeds Ms. Sharon Capeling-Alakija, is expected to begin her duties at UNIFEM on 15 October.

UN Conference searches for answers to ethnic conflict

More than 150 policy makers, development experts, academics and representatives from NGOs and media organizations gathered at United Nations headquarters in New York from 17-19 August to discuss ways of preventing ethnic conflict and violence at a time when such disturbances have broken out in tragic proportions and have horrified the world. The three-day conference, entitled "Ethnic Diversity and Public Policies", was organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and co-sponsored by UNDP in an effort to identify the root causes of these conflicts along with preventive actions. The findings of the meeting will be presented at the World Summit for Social Development next year in Copenhagen.

"We are here to search for very practical, down-to-earth ways for sovereign countries — and indeed whole regions of the world — to face the challenge of persistent and potentially explosive differences between various ethnic, racial and religious groups," said UNRISD Director Dharam Ghai. "The reality, especially since the end of the Cold War, is that every country must learn to live with these differences and find ways to accommodate them within the economic, social, and cultural contexts of its society. To ignore these problems is to invite tragedy and bloodshed."

Thirty countries were represented at the meeting, and participants attended from such hotspots as Bosnia, Burundi, Rwanda, South Africa, the former Soviet Union, Northern Ireland and the Middle East. The meeting focused on various country experiences, including the cases of Burundi/Rwanda, Malaysia, Northern Ireland and South Africa. Other panel discussions covered such topics as ethnic conflicts and the role of the media, third-party intervention, migration and integration, and the impact of political, economic and social policies on ethnic relations.

Speaking at the meeting, Gus Edgren, Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, said that virulent ethnicity and fundamentalism flourish in conditions of declining opportunity, and that most of our mod-

ern wars are not between countries, but within countries. "These considerations and others point to the fact that we need a new concept of security — human security," he said. "We need to shift from territorial security to security in peoples' lives, from security through arms to security through sustainable human development."

Building global momentum for carrying out Earth Summit agreements

UNDP is providing support to the Earth Council Institute to promote greater public awareness, dialogue and collaborative action on environment and development. The Earth Council is a non-governmental organization founded in 1992 as a result of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. The NGO consists of a group of 21 people, chosen worldwide by 10,000 NGOs, who are committed to building a global constituency for sustainable development to help ensure implementation of the Earth Summit agreements.

The Earth Council Institute will provide appropriate programme development to carry out the Council's goals and policies. It will function as an independent body to assess and report publicly on the adequacy of the responses to the challenges of the Earth Summit. It will monitor the performance of governments and other actors in the implementation of the Earth Summit agreements and related environment and development activities.

Through this initiative, UNDP will help strengthen existing National Councils for Sustainable Development and those in the process of being formed. Two regional meetings, one in Latin America and the other in the Asia and Pacific region, will be organized to allow the National Councils to share experiences and approaches to implementing the principles of Agenda 21, the blueprint plan of action that came out of the Earth Summit.

A directory of National Commissions for Sustainable Development has been developed with assistance from the World Resources Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council. UNDP will contribute primarily to the translation and distribution of this directory, which contains such information as which NGOs, universities, government offices, businesses, media and other grassroots organizations are associated with the National Commissions for Sustainable Development.

In addition, national guidelines for the implementation of Agenda 21 will be drawn up. This document will provide a quick and easy synthesis of the criteria and objectives of Agenda 21. It will serve as a guide for the National Councils to measure the success of implementation of Agenda 21 and will assist countries in directing their own initiatives and evaluating their performance.

A related component of the UNDP effort will be the preparation of case studies on successful activities related to carrying out the principles of Agenda 21.

Protecting plant biodiversity in Northwest Africa

Preserving plant genetic varieties in the Maghrebian countries of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia is the goal of a recently approved pre-investment projec by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF, an international fund managed by UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme, focuses on conserving biodiversity, protecting international waters and combatting global warming.

The studies carried out by the $300,000 pre-investment initiative will identify the most threatened plant and crop species in the three Maghrebian countries of northwest Africa and will recommend suitable strategies for their conservation. These will be employed under a large-scale project that is planned to follow, and which will seek to link up with other similar initiatives in the region, such as the Plant Genetic Resource Conservation Project now underway in Ethiopia and Turkey, which is also administered by the GEF.

Changing socio-economic patterns in the region have brought about a gradual shift from traditional subsistence agriculture, and the reliance on native crops, to a growing preference for a cash crop system and the harvesting of crops more suitable for export. Certain varieties of dates, wheat and barley, for example, favoured in the area for centuries, are being threatened as a result, while newly introduced varieties of tomatoes and potatoes grown for export have become more common.

The one-year project will identify various methods of plant conservation, such as the collection of seeds, the preservation of land tracts where endangered species grow, and the establishment of seed banks and research laboratories. Local training and capacity-building in plant genetic resources conservation in the three Maghrebian countries is also an important long-term goal.

Approved projects:

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Ethiopia — National Programme on Capacity Building for Sustained Human Resources Development and Utilisation — This programme is one of five national programmes formulated by the Government of Ethiopia, with support from UNDP,

for multi-donor funding. The programme will contribute to sustainable human development by increasing access to health and basic needs, education and training, appropriate science and technology and employment.

The strategy is to build capacity at the decentralised levels to manage and sustain improvements in human resources development. The programme will help devise policies in health and education to increase access to and quality of these sectors. In the area of employment, the initiative will develop sub-program-mes with the informal sector, micro and small scale enterprises, rural off-farm employment, labour intensive works and agricultural wage employment to ensure effective use of human resources. It will also build national capabilities in the selection, adaptation and dissemination of technology, and the capacity to generate improved indigenous technologies to raise productivity in key sectors of the economy.

UNDP will provide $14,182,000, to support activities from the six sub-programmes of the national programme. These are: human resources development policy formulation and planning; human freedoms and opportunities; health and basic needs; education and training; science and technology access and application and employment and livelihood. Third-party cost sharing has been obtained from the Government of the Netherlands ($55,000), and HABITAT ($20,000).

This programme is nationally executed with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPED) acting as the Executing Agency. Responsibility for implementing the activities of the six sub-programmes rests with the concerned line ministries. (ETH/94/003)

Sudan — Community-based Rangeland Rehabilitation — This programme will help develop community institutional structures for land use planning and management. Five kilometres of denuded sand dunes will be revegetated and 195 windbreaks will be created. Women's collective gardens will be established, along with a locally-managed livestock programme. Through this mix of short-term and long-term activities, the project will help promote sustainable natural resource management.

UNDP budget: $1.5 million. Funds will be used for training, equipment, experts, and a locally-managed revolving fund. Executed and implemented by the Range and Pasture Administration. The cooperating agency is the Office for Project Services. (UNSO/SUD/93/G31)

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UNDP Chief calls for consumption cuts in industrialized countries and new aid commitments at Cairo Conference

When thinking of population and development, "Many in the industrialized world don't seem to realize that they are part of the problem too," said James Gustave Speth, Administrator of UNDP, addressing the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo on 6 September. "It is time to stop riding the merry-go-round of denial. At the global level, population growth in the developing world is not the main threat to our planet's sustainability. The biggest threat comes from population growth and resource consumption in the *industrialized* world."

Mr. Speth also said that the collective responsibility of delegates means an international commitment to development. "And this commitment means concrete actions, financial commitments and international partnerships." He said, "The hard facts are that despite the agreements reached at the 1992 Earth Summit, the world's commitment to development is waning. International development assistance is on the decline. It is time for us to reverse this trend."

Mr. Speth said that donors and developing countries must not only support the population actions agreed upon in Cairo, but do so and with new development assistance funding, "not just by earmarking scarce existing resources. Robbing one worthy objective for another is not a worthy answer." He also urged increased funding for development. "An international population strategy built on a foundation without development will eventually topple," he warned.

UN Secretary-General calls for specific targets for Social Summit

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali called the upcoming Social Summit "an opportunity to improve the work of the United Nations, and to strengthen its capacity to assist the international community." The Summit "must be of practical help to States in coping with social challenges," said the Secretary-General in his opening address on 22 August to the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the World Summit for Social Development.

Given the nature of the new threats which undermine the security of States and their people — such as environmental degradation, the spread of disease and transnational migrations — "new modalities of international cooperation have to be imagined, defined, and implemented," he said.

The Summit must begin the process of re-thinking national and international approaches to security. "In poor and rich nations alike, people are seeking security in their daily lives — in their homes, in their jobs, in their communities, in their environment," said Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

He also said that new development models should not only generate economic growth, but should empower people. In addition, structural adjustment programmes must be designed to be socially and environmentally sound. He added that "social and environmental spending must be the last items to be cut, not the first. Military budgets must be the first to be cut, not the last."

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that the Summit should aim at specific targets, such as halving the proportion of people living in poverty, creating jobs and sustainable liveli-

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali addressing the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, with Ambassador Juan Somavia, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

This logo, designed by the United Nations, symbolizes the Social Summit's three goals: attacking poverty, building solidarity, creating jobs.

In this issue:

Progress made on Social Summit Declaration and Programme of Action — Practical measures for promoting social development — NGOs make their mark as delegations prepare for Social Summit — NGO Alternative "Summit" — UNDP becomes a permanent observer to the Development Assistance Committee

hoods, and reducing disparities among income classes, sexes, ethnic groups, geographical regions and nations.

With its uniquely strong and diverse development system, the United Nations must provide an integrated and "effective support system for sustainable human development," said the Secretary-General. "The United Nations cannot be a strong force for peace unless it is also a strong force for development," he added.

Progress made on Social Summit Declaration and Programme of Action

Heads of State and Government could be asked to declare their commitment to nine target areas of action at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, according to a progress report on the Summit's draft declaration. The report was presented to the concluding meeting of the second session of the Summit's Preparatory Committee.

Government delegates from over 180 countries, joined by representatives of some 300 non-governmental organizations (NGOS), held intensive talks from 22 August - 2 September at this second session of the Preparatory Committee. The first session was held on 6 -12 March.

The progress report, which reflects informal consultations conducted by Committee Chairman Juan Somavia, began to set the elements, tone and style of the draft declaration. It contains an introduction and sections on the current social situation and reasons for the Summit, principles, common values, goals, and commitments.

The nine commitments define a common vision for governments: promotion of social progress; eradication of poverty; free choice for livelihoods; promotion of social integration; full equality between men and women; promoting the economic, social and human development of Africa, and of all least developed countries; making structural adjustment programmes more socially-oriented; generating the funding needed for social development; and improving the international economic environment and international financial assistance.

The Preparatory Committee is charged with drafting both a Declaration and a Programme of Action for presentation at the World Summit, to be held in Copenhagen from 6 -12 March 1995. On-going preparation of the drafts will continue during informal consultations on 24-28 October and will be finalized at the third and last session of the PrepCom, scheduled for 16 - 27 January 1995.

According to the progress report on the draft declaration, the Summit would acknowledge that while globalization of world economies was opening new opportunities, progress in developing countries was giving way to inequalities and marginalization.

The report notes that 120 million people worldwide are unemployed and that increased vulnerability, violence, marginalization and insecurity are being hastened by events throughout the world.

In its section on the goals of the Summit, the report calls for actions which place people at the centre of development and the economy at the service of human needs. Those actions should protect the sustainable use of the environment, and integrate economic and social policies.

Along with the progress report on the draft declaration, the October meeting will have before it an informal paper summarizing PrepCom discussions on the draft Programme of Action. In November, a revised text will be prepared, with any areas of disagreement bracketed, well in time for the third session of PrepCom in January 1995.

Some of the key issues that must be resolved in the draft Programme of Action include: right to migrate; debt reduction; structural adjustment; official development assistance; the proposal for a social security council; broadening the understanding of work to include informal activities; and the role of the family. Among the conceptual points that still need further elaboration are: the definition of poverty; the concept of human security; sustainable human development; and the 20/20 initiative. (see next story for more on 20/20 proposal)

Practical measures for promoting social development

Reversals and radical rethinking are required if the realities of the poor are to count at the World Summit for Social Development, according to Robert Chambers, of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. "Most of the poor are female. Most of the poor are rural, but increasing numbers are urban," said Mr. Chambers in an address to a seminar at the United Nations on poverty and employment. Still, the UN drafts projects which put "Northern, more industrial and urban, conditions, concerns and categories onto Southern, more agricultural and rural realities," said Mr. Chambers.

UNDP convened panel discussions in New York on 23-24 August to identify pragmatic and practical policy measures for promoting social development, as part of the deliberations for the Social Summit in March of 1995. More than 200 members of delegations, NGOs and the press attended each of the two seminars, "Poverty and Employment: Concrete Policy Options" and "Innovative Resource Mobilization for Social Development". Both panels were chaired by Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator.

Mr. Chambers urged that the draft action plan for the Social Summit not be limited to "employment, unemployment and

jobs" which are "concepts generated in the urban and industrial world of the North." The Summit should focus instead on "how to enable poor people to gain more secure, sustainable and adequate livelihoods," he said.

Solita Monsod of the University of the Philippines said active participation by women and other marginalized groups in local decision-making could help tackle the crises of poverty and unemployment. Investment in women is central to improving the well-being of entire families and communities, Ms. Monsod said.

A lively debate on the "20/20 Initiative" surfaced during the seminar on resource mobilization for social development. The 20/20 proposal calls for donor countries allocating 20 per cent of their development assistance and developing countries allocating 20 per cent of their budgets for social development programmes. Current public spending on basic social services in developing countries averages 13 per cent.

During the seminar, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF released a joint statement on the 20/20 proposal. The note spells out the additional resources necessary to achieve, by the year 2000, generally accepted targets in the areas of health and nutrition, reproductive health and population, education and water supply and sanitation. The three agencies estimate that an additional $30-$40 billion a year will be needed to achieve universal access to these basic social services. This could be achieved through a combination of restructuring existing expenditures and efforts to develop new resources as needed.

Inge Kaul, director of the UNDP Human Development Report Office, said that "the plain and simple truth is that there is no scarcity of resources for poverty alleviation." She said that a combination of debt relief, socially-sensitive structural adjustment programmes, global taxes on items like energy and pollution, cuts in military expenditure and the 20/20 proposal could all yield resources to alleviate poverty.

Ambassador Rabah Hadid of Algeria, spokesman for the Group of 77, told the seminar that "it's true that resources are plenty — but resources to which developing countries have access are scarce."

Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, said that the 20/20 target was a guideline for countries rather than a strict goal. He added that the vision was not a new recipe for conditionality, a panacea for global poverty, an excuse for greater debt relief, or an alternative to private sector investment.

The symbol for NGO-Forum '95 depicts the aim of reaching out to the world.

NGO Alternative "Summit"

NGO-Forum '95 will serve as an alternative to the official UN Summit. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Popular Organizations (POs) from around the world are invited to Copenhagen from 3 -12 March to discuss public attitudes toward global social development. NGO-Forum '95 will offer the opportunity for exchanging views and experiences, and provide a platform for the formulation of a plan of action for the future.

NGOs made considerable impact through their parallel forums in Rio de Janeiro at the UN Conference on Environment and Development and in Vienna at the World Conference on Human Rights. Building on the experiences gleaned at these two summits, the Danish Host Committee has been preparing for the forthcoming NGO-Forum in Copenhagen for more than a year. They expect the participation will exceed 2,000 NGO delegations.

Applications for accreditation to the World Summit for Social Development can be obtained from: NGO Unit/ DPCSD, United Nations, Room DC2-2340, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA. Fax: +1 212 963 3063. Additional information on NGO accreditation: NGO Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, United Nations, Room DC2-1372, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA. Fax: +1 212 963 3062. The deadline for registration for the World Summit and PrepCom III is 15 December, 1994.

NGOs make their mark as delegations prepare for Social Summit

After early dissatisfaction with the proceedings of the PrepCom for the Social Summit, the NGO community shifted towards a more positive assessment by the end of the two-week PrepCom session. "The Draft Declaration reflects our aspirations, that is to address the structural causes of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration, rather than dealing with the symptoms," said an NGO statement, issued on 1 September to the PrepCom, on behalf of the Development Caucus. This group met daily during the two-week session to develop consensus positions among participating NGOs.

"The Report of the Chairman on the Elements for a Draft Declaration airs the political will that we have been waiting for and it reflects the spirit that is re-

quired to start addressing the urgent social problems that the world is facing today," said the statement.

The NGOs were not so hopeful during earlier meetings of the PrepCom. "Twelve points to Save the Social Summit" was a statement issued on 25 August as an NGO outcry against the PrepCom proceedings, which many NGOs felt were not addressing the core issues of social development. These 12 points have now been endorsed by organizations from all the world's regions, and additional endorsements continue to stream in.

The "12 points" paper states that "structural adjustment programmes focused on export-led growth and which disregard wealth distribution and environmental sustainability have failed to create employment, have deepened social inequality and poverty, and thereby fed social disintegration."

The NGO statement declares that "Trickle down economics is not working — in the North or the South." It urges the international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF to provide evaluations of the effectiveness of their poverty alleviation measures and also provide data on the impact of their programmes on women, children and other vulnerable groups.

The NGO paper also says that the summit should promote debt reduction initiatives and go beyond the existing package of options, including the writing off of multilateral debt, especially in Africa.

"The UN target for Official Development Assistance (ODA) of 0.7 per cent should be achieved by all OECD (Organisation for Economic cooperation and Development) countries," declares the 12-point statement.

During a low point in the PrepCom, the Development Caucus NGOs issued a statement called "A Question of Credibility," criticising a revised version of the Draft Programme of Action which had been issued on 26 August. "We cannot see the document as a basis for a constructive dialogue with governments on social development. We do not feel that the concept of social development that NGOs in the development caucus have been promoting is sufficiently included in the new document," said the statement, issued on 29 August.

Their sentiments were reversed, however, after the presentation of the Draft Declaration on 31 August, as the PrepCom was beginning to wind down. "The Summit, in our view, had almost lost its credibility as a People's Summit," said the new NGO statement issued on 1 September. "We wanted a horse, we asked for a camel and we were offered a dinosaur... But this morning our hearts are filled with renewed hope."

UNDP becomes a permanent observer to the Development Assistance Committee

The Council of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development recently endorsed a recommendation of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) that UNDP become a permanent observer in the work of the Committee. There was consensus in DAC that this participation would have benefits for the DAC and for the coordination of the aid system as a whole.

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UNDP Administrator visits Palestinian Territories to review plans for development

Improving living conditions of the Palestinian population, promoting municipal works, and developing the private sector in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are priorities of UNDP and its donor partners in the Palestinian Territories. UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth visited the Territories on 4-5 September to review action plans and examine the progress of UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP), which for more than a dozen years has been providing both capital and technical development assistance to the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNDP will be spending more than US$30 million this year on PAPP, which has become a major channel for external development assistance to the emerging Palestinian Interim Self-Government.

Mr. Speth held high-level discussions with numerous dignitaries, including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who joined Mr. Speth in Gaza at the inauguration of the Al-Zeitoun school, which received UNDP funding.

Mr. Speth said that UNDP is "working to accelerate the pace of development in the Territories, especially in the important areas of health, education and job creation." Chairman Arafat expressed his gratitude to UNDP for its assistance with the school — the most modern in Gaza.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, Mr. Speth visited a new out-patient wing of the Princess Alya hospital that UNDP helped to build. He also visited a $12-million citrus juice processing plant, the largest industrial investment recently made in the Gaza Strip, financed by the Government of Italy and UNDP.

Mr. Speth also met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to discuss ways of promoting economic development in the Palestinian Territories, including the possible creation of an industrial park in Gaza, which could provide an important source of jobs.

Gaio Nalbandian

UNDP Special Representative to the Palestinian Territories Roger Guarda, UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth and Chairman Yasser Arafat at the inauguration of the UNDP-funded Al-Zeitoun School in the Gaza Strip.

In this issue:

De-mining in Cambodia — Reconstruction plans in Bosnia

Relief assistance in Horn of Africa shifts toward long-term development

Plans are underway by UNDP to launch a programme in the Horn of Africa to assist displaced persons in the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and the Sudan. There are an estimated 17 million uprooted people residing in these six countries who have been forced to migrate as a result of war, drought and civil conflict.

The initiative, which should be in place by the end of 1994, is being formulated by UNDP's Regional Bureaux for

Africa and the Arab States and by its Humanitarian Programme. Its aim is to assist these displaced persons through a variety of strategies which include training programmes, employment creation, education and health services and community development activities.

The "Area-Based Development-Oriented Programme for the Reintegration of Uprooted Populations in the Horn of Africa" will target areas with concentrations of refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons, and demobilized soldiers.

The short-term needs of these groups are handled by UNHCR, the World Food Programme, UNICEF and national and international NGOs — under the general leadership of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) through the local UNDP Resident Representative — the long-term developmental needs have often been viewed as separate problems to be handled in the context of long-term national development plans.

More recently, however, the international community has recognized that relief and resettlement programmes have an impact on long-term development, and that humanitarian assistance programmes should therefore be oriented to achieve lasting economic and social development. In this context, UNDP is responsible for supporting countries moving from relief to development programmes.

UNDP is expected to take a lead role in helping people resettle. While UNHCR has a mandate to assist refugees and returnees during the early stages of their reintegration into their communities, UNDP will be concerned with the long-term reintegration of returnees, refugees and displaced persons.

UNDP, the Inter-Governmental Agency for Drought and Development (IGADD), which serves the Horn countries, and relevant government officials will meet in October to assess the programme's concept and work plan in the region. This meeting will take place in close consultation, with DHA and USAID, which has recently launched a Greater Horn of Africa Initiative. The ultimate aim is to design a programme in the region that will integrate the initiatives of all the main donors.

P. Montesi/ UNHCR

UNDP will be launching a programme for refugees and displaced persons in the Horn of Africa. A boat carrying Somali refugees arrives in Mombasa harbour.

De-mining programme in Cambodia expands its reach

Recent reports from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre in Phnom Penh indicate that its teams, under UNDP trust-fund financing, have cleared mines from nearly 8.5 million square meters of land, removing 22,000 anti-personnel mines and over 130 anti-tank mines. In addition, the Centre's survey teams have marked over 44 million square metres of mine fields throughout the country.

The number of landmines now laid in Cambodia is estimated between six and 10 million, representing roughly seven to 11 per cent of the estimated uncleared mines worldwide. Due to mine explosions, Cambodia has the highest proportion of amputees to national population in the world.

late last year, UNDP established a trust fund to support the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the main Cambodian institution in the country responsible for implementing and coordinating de-mining operations. Under the auspices of UNDP, interested governments have been approached to provide funds and international advisory personnel to guide the Centre. To date, contributions to the de-mining trust fund in Cambodia have reached $13.9 million from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States.

The Centre has 1,500 staff members including de-miners, mine survey experts, explosives technicians and trainers. Their work involves training, mine marking, mine clearance and policy development.

UNDP to plan large-scale reconstruction programme in Gornji Vakuf region of Bosnia

UNDP is undertaking preparatory assistance for a programme of socio-economic reconstruction in the Gornji Vakuf region of Bosnia, an area reported to have suffered more physical damage from the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina than any other town. All of the major public buildings along the main road running through Gornji Vakuf have been completely destroyed.

The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the municipal authorities approached UNDP and the UN office in Vienna for assistance in the rehabilitation of the community.

Gornji Vakuf lies along the Vrbas river in a mountainous region 100 kilometres northwest of Mostar. Its pre-war population was 25,000, of which 56 per cent was Muslim and nearly 43 per cent was Croat. Before the war, its economy was based on mining, manufacturing and small-scale agriculture. Factories for the manufacture of furniture, metal springs, metal processing and clothing remain basically intact and require only maintenance, spare parts and raw materials to resume operation. There is also an unfinished ball-bearing factory which now serves as a base for the UN Protection Force, known as UNPROFOR British Battalion II.

Initially, UNDP assistance will be used to design a large-scale initiative. The future programme will include establishing a home repair fund to assist residents in rebuilding their houses. Work brigades will be organized and social services for displaced persons will be set up. Cost estimates will be made for the repair of the hospital, the school, electricity and gas networks, and the agricultural cooperative. In addition, consultants will be provided to draw up a more comprehensive multisectoral assistance programme for the region. These experts will include an economic regional planner, an industrial advisor, a cooperative and credit scheme expert and a building engineer.

Approved projects:

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Argentina — Capital Market Development — This project will help to develop the capital market for sustainable economic growth. The initiative is aimed at fostering investment and generating employment. It will provide support for institutional development of the newly reformed pension fund system and the securities market. In addition, the project will help to develop a training programme for the banking and securities industries and their regulators.

Government cost-sharing: $7 million. Funds will be used for personnel, subcontracts and equipment. Government executed. Implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Public Works. (ARG/94/018)

Brazil — Technical Cooperation for Natural Resources Management in Mato Grosso — The aim of this programme is to implement a sustainable development model for the State of Mato Grosso. The capacities of the Mato Grosso governmental and non-governmental offices will be strengthened to carry out development projects that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Government cost-sharing (IBRD loan): $12,855,130. Funds will be used for training, consultants and subcontracts in areas such as mapping, market studies, natural resource inventories, and industrial trials. Executed by the Planning and Coordinating Office of the State of Mato Grosso. Lead Government authority: Brazilian Cooperation Agency. (BRA/94/006)

Brazil — Technical Cooperation for the Rondonia Natural Resource Management Project — This project will help to implement a sustainable development model for the State of Rondonia. The aim will be to strengthen and restructure the relevant institutions, and to formulate an overall policy and legal framework for sustainable planning and management.

Government cost-sharing (IBRD loan): $15,683,953. Funds will be used for experts, seminars, training and equipment. Executed by the Planning and Coordinating Office of the State of Rondonia. The lead Government authority is the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. (BRA/94/007)

Colombia — Public Financial Management — This project will help build national capacity in financial policy design and in the overall management of public finances. An integrated financial management system will be established, including a National Administration of Taxes and Customs, a modernized Treasury, an improved system for financial modelling, a comprehensive accounting system, and a common database for financial information.

Government cost-sharing: $10,144,370. Government cost-sharing from IBRD Credit: $17,929,700. Funds will be used for training, equipment and national and international consultants in the areas of financial management, public finance administration and the development and implementation of computer programmes. (COL/94/006)

Colombia — Elimination of CFC in the Manufacture of Domestic Refrigerators — This one-year project will help to eliminate 226 tonnes of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that would otherwise have been used by four domestic refrigerator manufacturers: Corelsa, Haceb, Icasa and Polarix. The project will also assist Andinos, a compressor manufacturer, in switching to non-CFCs.

Third-party cost-sharing from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol: $4,808,900. Funds will be used to change the existing production lines in the five compa-

nies to cover the cost of testing, pre-production trials, training, and operational costs resulting from the conversion to the new technology. Executed by the UNDP/Office of Project Services. Implemented by the National Council for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer with the five participating companies. (COL/94/G62)

Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Jamaica – Planning and Management of Heavily Contaminated Bays and Coastal Areas in the Wider Caribbean – The objective of the project is to develop an integrated investment action plan for the rehabilitation and management of four selected bays: Havana Bay in Cuba, Kingston Harbor in Jamaica, Puerto Limón in Costa Rica, and Cartagena Bay in Colombia. A series of pre-feasibility studies will be undertaken to address the technical, institutional, legislative and economic factors which have led to the present environmental degradation in these bays. Through these studies, the project will help provide viable alternatives for the management and restoration of the selected bays.

Global Environment Facility contribution: $2,347,000. Government counterpart budget: $535,000. Funds will be used for equipment, consultants, and national and international sub-contracts. Executed by the UNDP/Office of Project Services. Implemented by the relevant offices in each participating country. (RLA/93/G41)

Ethiopia – National Programme on Improvement of the Resources – Population – Sustainability Balance – This five-year programme is aimed at the sustainable management, development and use of existing natural resources, and the sustainable development of under-utilized natural resources. Emphasis will be given to capacity-building at the national and regional levels.

UNDP contribution: $17,455,000. Funds will be used as a catalyst to mobilize other donor funds and to build capacity in sectoral ministries dealing with water resources, mining and energy, and tourism development. Executed by relevant government departments. The lead Government authority is the Ministry of Natural Resources Development and Environmental Protection. (ETH/94/002)

Senegal – Human Development Promotion – This programme will help empower the local population to participate fully in the development process of the country through their own grass-roots associations. One component of the programme will focus on improving the collection of social data at the national, regional and local levels. Another element of the programme will provide support to grass-roots organizations in the preparation of local human development programmes. The programme will also help promote women's groups by improving the management and funding of their economic activities.

Contribution from UNDP Funds: $5,660,370. Funds will be used for equipment and experts in accounting, health, communications, grass-roots organizations, statistics, economic management, credit schemes, literacy and training. Executed by the Ministries of Economy, Finance and Planning. The International Labour Organisation is the associated implementing agency. (SEN/92/007)

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